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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,376	09/08/2003	Takahito Yamamiya	42530-5700	9443

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EXAMINER

MORRISON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/657,376

Applicant(s)

YAMAMIYA, TAKAHITO

Examiner

Thomas A. Morrison

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4 and 7-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's amendment dated 09/28/2006 has been entered.
2. The indicated allowability of claims 2 and 4 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to U.S. Patent No. 5,411,249 (Zouzoulas). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,411,249 (Zouzoulas).

Regarding claim 1, Figs. 1-16 show a compact driving unit for an automatic banknote receiving and storing unit, comprising:

a chassis (300);

a banknote accepting unit (near 101) for accepting a banknote, the banknote accepting unit (near 101) being mounted in the chassis (300);

a safe unit (200) for retaining accepted banknotes, the safe unit (200) including a banknote storing section, the safe unit (200) being mounted within and removable from the chassis (300);

a transporting unit (including 100, 150 and 154) for moving an accepted banknote from the banknote accepting unit (near 101) to a position adjacent the banknote storing section, the transporting unit (including 100, 150 and 154) having a driving crank (154) with a driver (156) mounted on the chassis (300), the transporting unit (including 100, 150 and 154) being mounted within and removable from the chassis (300);

a translating unit (including 217), operatively connected to the transporting unit (including 100, 150 and 154), for non-rotationally displacing a pushing board (217) to move an accepted banknote to a position within the banknote storing section; and

a driving lever (303) for operatively exerting a force on the pushing board (217) of the translating unit, the driving lever (303) being driven by the transporting unit driving crank (154) and driver (156), wherein the driving lever (303) is mounted on a shaft and pivots in a plane which is parallel to a plane traversed by the transporting unit (including 100, 150 and 154) as it is attached to the chassis (303), the driving lever (303) having a driven section (near 310) located at the end of the driving lever (303) facing an opening for attaching the transporting unit (including 100, 150 and 154) to the chassis (300), the driven section (near 310) for contact with the driving crank (154), the end of the driving lever (303) opposite the driven section being a driving section (near 309) for operating the translating unit (including 217). See e.g., column 4, line 47 to column 5, line 15.

Regarding claim 3, Figs. 13-15 show that the translating unit (including 217) includes the pushing board (217) and a parallel linkage assembly (i.e., the elements in

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Figs. 13-15 that make pushing board (217) move parallel to a bottom surface of the chassis (300)).

Regarding claim 4, Figs. 14-16 show that the driving lever (303) is located at a side of the chassis (300).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1,3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020175463 (Abe et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,411,249 (Zouzoulas).

Regarding claim 1, Figs. 15-25 show a compact driving unit for an automatic banknote receiving and storing unit, comprising:

a chassis (201);

a banknote accepting unit (202) for accepting a banknote, the banknote accepting unit (202) being mounted in the chassis (201);

a safe unit (203) for retaining accepted banknotes, the safe unit (203) including a banknote storing section, the safe unit (203) being mounted within and removable from the chassis (201);

a transporting unit (including 204) for moving an accepted banknote from the banknote accepting unit (202) to a position adjacent the banknote storing section, the transporting unit (including 204) having a driving crank (including 223R) with a driver (224R) mounted on the chassis (201), the transporting unit (including 204) being mounted within and removable from the chassis (201);

a translating unit (including 256), operatively connected to the transporting unit (including 204), for non-rotationally displacing a pushing board (256) to move an accepted banknote to a position within the banknote storing section; and

a driving lever (229R) for operatively exerting a force on the pushing board (256) of the translating unit (including 256), the driving lever (229R) being driven by the transporting unit driving crank (223R) and driver (224R), wherein the driving lever (229R) is mounted on a shaft and pivots in a plane. Also, the driving lever (229R) has a driven section (near 224R) located at the end of the driving lever (229R) facing an opening for attaching the transporting unit (including 204) to the chassis (201), the driven section (near 224R) for contact with the driving crank (224R), the end of the driving lever (229R) opposite the driven section being a driving section (near 271R) for operating the translating unit (including 256).

As mentioned above, the Abe et al. publication discloses that the driving lever (229R) is mounted on a shaft and pivots in a plane. However, Abe et al. does not specifically disclose that such driving lever (229R) pivots in a plane which is parallel to a

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plane traversed by the transporting unit (including 204) as it is attached to the chassis (201).

The Zouzoulas patent discloses that it is well known to provide a driving unit for an automatic receiving and storing unit with a transporting unit (including 100) that is attached to or detached from a chassis (300) by sliding such transporting unit (including 100) into or out of the chassis (300) along a plane that is parallel to a plane along which a lever (303) pivots. See e.g., Figs. 2, 13 and 15, and column 4, line 47 to column 5, line 15. Column 4, lines 47-58 of Zouzoulas explain that such sliding removal and reinstallation of the transporting unit (including 100) facilitates cleaning or repair of the transporting unit (including 100). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Abe et al. device with a transporting unit that is configured to slide in and out of the chassis of Abe et al. for the purpose of easily removing and reinstalling the transporting unit of Abe et al. to clean or repair such transporting unit. Installing the transporting unit of Abe et al., in a manner as taught by Zouzoulas, will result in the driving lever (229R) of Abe et al. pivoting in a plane which is parallel to a plane traversed by the transporting unit (including 204) of Abe et al. as it is attached to the chassis (201) of Abe et al.

Regarding claim 3, Figs. 15-25 of Abe et al. show that the translating unit (including 256) includes the pushing board (256) and a parallel linkage assembly.

Regarding claim 4, Figs. 15-25 of Abe et al. show that the driving lever (229R) is located at a side of the chassis (201).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 7-11 are allowed.

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on (571) 272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

11/16/2006

  
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